(b) State Government has reported that no starvation death has taken place in District Gorakhpur.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

(e) and (f) As per point (2) of the Annexure to the PDS (Control) Order, 2001, State Governments shall get the lists of BPL and Antyodaya families reviewed every year for the purpose of deletion of ineligible families and inclusion of eligible families. The State Government of Uttar Pradesh itself launched campaign to cancel ghost and improper cards by its order number 422/29-6-06-258sa/03 dated 3.2.2005, and 317538 of BPL and 91862 of AAY cards were cancelled in that drive.

Revival of Super Bazar

1080. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under Government's consideration to revive the Super Bazar, in collaboration with a private party;

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when a final decision in the matter is likely to be taken; and

(c) whether the employees of the disbanded Super Bazar, who were rendered jobless as a result thereof, would be offered employment in the revived Super Bazar, if so, to what extent and on what terms of services, etc.?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) The Super Bazar Dalit Karamchari Sangh has filed Special Leave Petition No. 8398/2005 in the Supreme Court challenging the order of winding up of Super Bazar. The Supreme Court in its Order dated 28.2.2006, *inter alia*, observed that professional management of the Super Bazar is absolutely essential. With a view to explore the possibility of having an arrangement under which the management of the Super Bazar may be entrusted to a body of professionals, the Supreme Court constituted a Committee of Officials to consider all aspects of the matter. The Committee submitted its report on 29.03.2006 in the Supreme Court of India. On 5.5.2006, the Supreme

Court directed the Committee to issue an advertisement in two National daily newspapers within two weeks from 5.5.2006 for inviting bids to start Super Bazar afresh. In compliance of this Order, a notice for inviting bids was published on 19.05.2006 in two National daily newspapers. M/s Reliance Industries Ltd. and Indian Labour Cooperative Society along with Indian Potash Ltd. had submitted their bids. These bids were opened by the Committee on 8.6.2006. The bids were evaluated by the Committee and a Report was submitted in the Supreme Court on 4.7.2006.

(c) According to the proposal of the bidders, the employees of the Super Bazar would be offered employment in Super Bazar as and when revived, subject to certain terms and conditions. The next date of hearing of the case fixed by the Supreme Court is 05.12.2006. Therefore, the matter is *sub-judice*.

Committee on working of TPDS

1081. SHRI SK. KHABIR UDDIN AHMED: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high powered committee under the Chairmanship of Prof. Abhijit Sen was constituted on 16th November, 2000;

(b) whether the Committee expressed displeasure over TPDS and recommended universal PDS; and

(c) if so, whether Government would agree to it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir. The Targeted PDS was introduced in June, 1997 with a view to target the underprivileged sections of the society, as the earlier Universal PDS did not adequately focus on the hungry and had urban bias. The introduction of universal PDS may result in the PDS losing its focus on meeting the needs of the poor.